Questions and Answers
SRP Funding Opportunities Web Seminar
January 17, 2012
Webinar Archive: http://www.clu-in.org/conf/tio/srpfunding/

Q: Can you send me the link to the latest chemicals/threats of interest to the program?
ANS: The best place to look would be the P42 webpage
(http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/srp/funding/rfa/index.cfm) which provides the following links:

- *Suggested Research Topics*
  http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/assets/docs/r_s/srp_p42_rfa_srt.pdf
- *Additional Resources*
  http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/srp/funding/rfa/rfa_resources/index.cfm

Specifically, the CERCLA Priority List of Hazardous Substances (ATSDR) is a good place to start (http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/cercla/). This is a list of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) priority hazardous substances, i.e. a list, in order of priority, of substances that are most commonly found at facilities on the National Priorities List (NPL) and which are determined to pose the most significant potential threat to human health due to their known or suspected toxicity and potential for human exposure at these NPL sites.

Q: Please clarify where the progress report should be presented within each P42 project/core?
ANS: See Application Guidelines – page 8 -10
http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/assets/docs/r_s/srp_mcg_app_guide.pdf

Renewal Applications list general progress in Section II's Center Introduction for the overall Center – this is part of the 12 page limit for the Center Introduction. For Projects and Cores – a narrative statement about progress goes into the Research Strategy of each project/core. This is part of the 12 page limit for the Research Strategy section.

Resubmission applicants include a 1-page "Introduction to Application" that precedes the specific aims to describe response to the reviewers' critiques.

Q: Is the [research] translation plan for each project part of the RTC Research Strategy section (12 pps) or as part of each research project in their research sharing plan?
ANS: There are many places in the P42 Application where a description of the per-project research translation plan would be appropriate.

- *Project's "Relation of Project to Overall Center" section (1 page limit). This section includes a project's interactions with other projects and cores, one of which would be the research translation core. A few sentences about a project's interaction with the research translation core and, accordingly, its plans for research translation would be appropriate.*
- *Project's "Resource Sharing Plan(s) Data Sharing Plan's Investigator-Initiated Research Translation Plan" section. This section may detail opportunities for translation of project science and should be about 1 paragraph.*
- *Research Translation Core "Relation of Project to Overall Center" section (1 page limit). This section includes a core's interactions with other projects and cores. A few sentences about the research translation plan for each project or cluster of projects would be appropriate.*
- *Research Translation Core Research Strategy section (12 page limit). This section describes the significance, innovation, and approach of the research translation core. As "project-specific research translation" is a responsibility of the RTC, it would be important to describe those plans in the RTC Research Strategy. If space is a premium, applicants may choose to provide more depth/detail in the above-referenced sections; however, RTC Research Strategy should at least briefly describe the translation plan and provide a page/section reference so reviewers know where to look for details.*

Q: Do Letters Of Intent (LOI) have to list External Advisory Committee Members?
ANS: For renewal centers, the LOI should include the names and organizations of their External Advisory Committee Members. For new applicants, the names and organizations of the External Advisory Committee members should not be included in the LOI nor the application.

Q: On slide 34, I missed the speaker's comment about the reordering of the priorities of Significance, Investigator, Innovation, Approach and Environment. Is the current order as shown on the slide or have investigator and innovation switched places?
ANS: The priority order changed after the Enhancing Peer Review (EPR) implementation plan by the NIH (2009): The old order had Approach after Significance and Investigators after Innovation: Basically these 2 criteria swapped as a part of EPR. The current order is as follows:

- *Significance*
- *Investigator(s)*
- *Innovation*
- *Approach*
- *Environment*

For more information on EPR see link: http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/faqs.html#2998

Q: For Community Engagement Projects, can you give an example of how one will determined to be biomedical or non-biomedical....i.e., what criteria are used to make this assignment for a CEP?
ANS: We do not have specific criteria for whether a CEP is biomedical or non-biomedical; however, with regard to projects, the RFA (ES-12-003) differentiates them accordingly:

The biomedical research projects should address biomedical or human health-related implications of hazardous substances. This includes but is not limited to: mechanistic-based toxicology studies, epidemiology, human risk assessment, genetic susceptibility, computational toxicology, or biomedical engineering. The non-biomedical research projects should address environmental science or engineering implications of hazardous substances. These projects are integral to the protection of human health through predicting, detecting, and preventing exposures. Non-biomedical research projects include, but would not be limited to: civil/environmental engineering, geology, ecology, microbiology, fate and transport studies, hydrogeology, remediation and detection sciences.

If it is ambiguous as whether the project is biomedical or non-biomedical, it is important for the applicant to contact program staff in advance and, in the application, to explain why he or she considers it be one or the other.

Q: In consulting with NIEHS, many of our collaborators are afraid to mention a biomedical application for non-biomed projects (mainly due to semantics). I tend to think that's a mistake, but I wanted clarification. Ex: If remediation technology may also be used down the road to ascertain exposure levels in tissues.
ANS: It is fine to mention biomedical applications for non-biomedical projects. If in doubt, please contact SRP Program Staff for assistance in classification of a project as biomedical or non-biomedical:

Beth Anderson tainer@niehs.nih.gov, (919) 541-4481
Danielle Carlin danielle.carlin@nih.gov, (919) 541-1409
Heather Henry henryh@niehs.nih.gov, (919) 541-5330

Q: I have a question regarding the Research Translation Core encouraging Partnerships with Government Agencies (Slide 20):
Will research translation partnerships with State EPA agencies also be considered as a priority?
ANS: Absolutely, federal, state, local and tribal agencies are legitimate in filling this requirement.

Q: Do you see NIOSH as an SRP stakeholder?
ANS: NIOSH is a stakeholder in the sense that the SRP has had a formal arrangement with NIOSH to support its Hazardous Substance Training and Hazardous Substance Academic Training programs. Over the years we have shared knowledge and participated in each others' meetings: however, we do not consider them to be partners in the same light as ATSDR and the U.S. EPA, as it does not have Superfund mandates like these two other agencies.

Q: Can US EPA researchers be on the grant?

ANS: Yes, a US EPA researcher can be on the grant. Applicants should talk to someone at its organization's office of sponsored projects to see how to handle federal employees on grants regarding costs allowable, travel, etc. There are many restrictions from the university side and also the federal government side (e.g. salary is cannot be included).

Q: For Training Cores, would NSF grant writing be an appropriate activity?
ANS: Workshops on grant writing would be fine for a Training Core activity. Given the cross-disciplinary intent of the training core, it would be best that grant writing would not be limited to NSF. Trainees should be aware of all types of grant funding, e.g., NIH, societies, associations, NSF, etc.

Q: Are combined sewage overflow events (CSOs) of interest to this program?
ANS: No. Sewage not a part of the Superfund mandate.

Q: How to connect with SBIR/STTR researchers to assist researchers in technology development beyond the scope of the current grants?
Q: I have a question similar to [above], but from the perspective of having a real-world challenge to resolve, that seems rife w/ research possibilities. Who would be the contact person to discuss this with?
ANS: See the "Who We Fund" webpage for the contact information and project descriptions for current grantees: http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/srp/programs/index.cfm.

You may also contact SRP Program Staff for assistance in connecting you with current researchers (SBIR/STTR, P42, R01) whose research areas are of interest for further commercial development or could be utilized for new commercial opportunities:

Heather Henry henryh@niehs.nih.gov, (919) 541-5330 (For SBIR/STTR and P42 Inquiries)
Danielle Carlin danielle.carlin@nih.gov, (919) 541-1409 (For P42 Inquiries)
Beth Anderson tainer@niehs.nih.gov, (919) 541-4481 (For P42 Inquiries)

Q: Is the Small Business size standard for this SBIR program still 500 employees? We submitted an application for a SBIR Grant thru the USDA some time back, and at that time the SBIR size standard for a Small Business Concern (SBC) was 500 employees (along with other criteria). Just want to confirm this is still the same.
ANS: Please see the following excerpt from http://sba.gov/size:

"Size guidelines define the maximum size that a firm (including its affiliates) may be to qualify as a small business for most Small Business Administration (SBA) programs. Size standards are usually reflected in the business's number of employees and average annual receipts. Based on those criteria, the SBA has established the following standards for a small business:

- *500 employees for most manufacturing and mining industries, and*

- *$7 million in average annual receipts for most non-manufacturing industries.*

While there are many exceptions, these are the primary size standards by industry. For more complete information on size standards, see the SBA's Small Business Size Regulations ([13 CFR Part 121](#)) or the [Table of Small Business Size Standards](#).

(From http://www.sba.gov/content/summary-size-standards-industry)